National Project on Biogas Development

2128. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Project on biogas development with a subsidy of Rs. 3500/- per Biogas Plant has been provided for Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether similar National Project with a subsidy of Rs. 5000/- per plant has been provided for Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) whether the agro-climatic/demographic/geographical conditions of both the States are almost same;

(d) if so, the reasons for discrimination in subsidy between the two States;

(e) whether Government propose to provide at par subsidy to Himachal Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However these were the rates during 1997-98.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However there is no discrimination in the amount of central subsidy given for setting up of family type biogas plants in the States of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir during 1989-99 under the Central Sector Scheme "National Project on Biogas Development".

(e) and (f) The amount of central subsidy given for setting up of family type biogas plants in these two States during 1989—99 is at par, i.e., Rs. 3,200/-per plant.

Coastal Zone Contamination

2129. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ocean is being threatened with coastal zone contamination; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed by India to save oceans eco-system from pollution to save seals, whales and dolphins becoming sick?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Ocean Development is implementing a multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional pollution monitoring programme since 1991, called "Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMAPS)" along the East and West Coasts of India and in the Islands of Andaman and Lakshadweep. Based on the systematic scientific data collected under this programme, the sea coast beyond 2 km along the coastline of India is found to be clean except off Mumbai, where the sea is found to be clean beyond 5 Km. Pollution levels at locations other than Mumbai are low and unlikely to affect the marine life like seals, whales and dolphins. The results of the observations made under this programme are also periodically made available to the Central and State Pollution Control Boards for enabling them to take legal mitigatory/preventive measures.

Coastal Erosion and Ecosystem

2130. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMCHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether global coastal erosion was continuing unabated in many areas and several low lying areas are disappearing; and

(b) if so, the initiative taken by India in international meets to check the coastal eco-system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) As per some of the reports available from the UN organisations and other regional bodies, globally there is an increasing trend in coastal erosion, leading to loss of coastal land in some parts of the world. The erosion in coastal areas is caused by a number of factors such as storm surges, wave action, human intervention etc., most of which are location specific. India is a member on the Panel of Coastal Global Ocean Observing System (C-GOOS) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. During the deliberations in the C-GOOS meetings, the experiences gained by the participating countries on coastal erosion and the possible preventive measures are exchanged.

Statutory Authority to CVC

2131. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to confer statutory authority to the Central Vigilance Commission and to effectively involve the opposition parties in the selection and appointment of CVC members;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons leading to this decision; and

(c) the steps since taken in pursuance of this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court vide its order dated 18th December, 1997, in Criminal Writ Petitions Nos. 340-343/93-Vineet Narain and others–Vs- Union of India and others (generally known as Jain Hawala case) had, *inter alia*, given directions that statutory status should be conferred upon the Central Vigilance Commission. Several consequences of the conferment of such status were also directed by the Supreme Court to follow. In order to comply with the directions of the supreme Court, the Central Government had promulgated the Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance, 1998 on the 25th August, 1998 conferring statutory status upon the CVC. Certain amendments were made to this Ordinance subsequently in the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 promulgated on October 27, 1998 by the Central Government. Clause 4 of the Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance, 1998 provides that the Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal on the recommendations of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chair-person and the Minister of Home Affairs and the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People as Members.

(c) In pursuance of the provisions contained in the Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance, 1998, the Central Government has appointed the new Central Vigilance Commissioner as per the procedure laid down therein.

Raids by CBI on United India Periodicals

2132. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) raided the premises of United India Periodicals (P) Ltd. on 24th July, 1996 and seized incriminating documents;

(b) if so, what follow-up action has been taken in this regard; and

(c) if no action has been taken the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Regular case (viz). RC. 62(A)/96-DLI has been registered is this connection.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposal for Enhancing Percentage of Pension to Central Government Employees

2133. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enhance the percentage of pension payable to Central Government empolyees as suggested by the Fifth Pay Commission;